The Claims:

What is claimed is :

1. A system for selectively delivering different beverages having different foam levels by injection of a fluid under pressure into a capsule that contains a beverage-forming substance, with the capsules including a chamber containing the substance and a beverage dispensing structure adapted to retain a certain extraction pressure in the chamber before allowing the beverage to flow out of the capsule; characterized in that the system comprises an extraction device and first and second capsules; the capsule being provided for selective use in the extraction device, with the first capsule having a first beverage dispensing structure configured and positioned therein to retain a first extraction pressure in the capsule, prior to the complete delivery of the beverage, and the second capsule having a second beverage dispensing structure configured and positioned therein to retain a second extraction pressure in the capsule, prior to the complete delivery of the beverage, with the first extraction pressure being higher than the second extraction pressure so that a greater amount of foam is created upon delivery of the beverage from the first capsule as compared to that created by the second capsule, so that a user of the system can select a cartridge that produces a beverage with the desired foam content.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein first and second capsules each include a substantially identical external configuration and shape, with a lower portion of each capsule configured and positioned to collect the beverage prior to dispensing it

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the lower portion of each capsule has an opening that forms an outflow passage for dispensing the beverage to the user without contacting or contaminating other portions of the system.

4. The system of claim 2 or 3, wherein the beverage dispensing structure is provided in the lower portion of the capsules, and the different extraction pressures of the beverage dispensing structures are achieved by different configurations for the beverage dispensing structures.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the different configurations of the beverage dispensing structures include a membrane and a puncturing plate or a filter element.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the different configurations of the of the beverage dispensing structures include at least one of the following arrangements:

(a) the membrane of the second capsule has a thickness that is different from that of the membrane of the first capsule;

(b) the membrane of the second capsule is made of a material that has a different puncture resistance than the membrane of the first capsule;

(c) the puncturing plate of the first capsule is different from that of the second capsule; or

(d) one capsule has a membrane and puncturing plate and the other capsule has a filter element.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the different configurations of the beverage dispensing structures include at least one of the following features:

(a) the membrane of the second capsule has a thickness that is smaller than that of the membrane of the first capsule, with the first and second membranes being made of a flexible material and being present in a thickness ratio that is between 1.25:1 to 5:1;

(b) the membrane of the second capsule is an aluminium membrane having a thickness of about 5 to 30 microns, and the membrane of the first capsule is an aluminium membrane having a thickness of about 20 to 80 microns;

(c) the puncturing plate of the first capsule has puncturing elements of different sharpness from the puncturing elements of the second capsule; or

(e) the puncturing plate of the first capsule has puncturing elements that are present in a different number than the puncturing elements of the second capsule.

8. The system of any ones of claims 5 to 7, wherein dispensing of the beverage is achieved upon perforation of the membrane by contact with the puncturing plate, or by internal pressure in the cartridge forcing the beverage to pass through the filter element.

9. The system of any ones of claims 5 to 8, wherein the puncturing plate of each capsule includes a plurality of puncturing elements, with

(a) the first capsule including a multitude of protrusions ending by a flattened tip and the second capsule including a multitude of protrusions ending by a sharpened tip; or

(b) the first and second capsule each including a multitude of protrusions wherein the second capsule has a greater number of protrusions that the first capsule the first capsule.

10. The system of any ones claims 5 to 7, wherein, due to a rise in pressure in the chamber, either the membrane of each capsule is moved to engage the puncturing plate to pierce the membrane and allow the beverage to be dispensed from the capsule, or the beverage in the chamber is forced to pass through the filter element to be dispensed from the capsule.

11. The system of any ones of the preceding claims, characterized in that it includes means for providing a fluid to the capsule and a device for holding a selected capsule in an operative position to receive a fluid from the fluid providing means for forming the beverage in the capsule.

12. The system of claim 11, characterized in that the capsule holding device has a recess configured in the same size and shape as the external configuration of the capsule, and the fluid providing means includes at least one fluid introduction element for introducing fluid into the capsule when the capsule is positioned in the capsule holder.

13. The system of any ones of the preceding claims, wherein the system is operatively associated with a first set of between 2 and 20 first capsules and a second set of between 2 and 20 second capsules.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the first set of capsules is provided in a first package and the second set of capsules is provided in a second package.

15. A method for allowing a user to form a beverage having a desired foam level from a system that forms the beverage by injection of a fluid under pressure into a capsule that contains a beverage-forming substance, with the capsule including a chamber containing the substance and a beverage dispensing structure adapted to retain a certain extraction pressure in the chamber before allowing the beverage to flow out of the capsule; characterized in that first and second capsules are provided for selective use in the system, with the first capsule having a first beverage dispensing structure configured and positioned therein to retain a first extraction pressure in the capsule, prior to the complete delivery of the beverage, and the second capsule having a second beverage dispensing structure configured and positioned therein to retain a second extraction pressure in the capsule, prior to the complete delivery of the beverage, with the first extraction pressure being higher than the second extraction pressure so that a greater amount of foam is created upon delivery of the beverage from the first capsule as compared to that created by the second capsule, so that the user can obtain a beverage with the desired foam content by selection of the first or second capsule and introduction of the selected capsule into the system for formation and dispensing of the beverage.